

VLR - 6/19/73

NRHP-7/26/73

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Virginia

COUNTY:

Falls Church (in city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7/26/73

1. NAME

COMMON:

Cherry Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

John Mills House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

312 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Falls Church

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY:

(in city)

CODE

610

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☒ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☒ Government ☒ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) _____
☒ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious _____
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

City of Falls Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

Municipal Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Falls Church

STATE:

Virginia

CODE

51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Fairfax County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Fairfax

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: November, 1972 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

C.D.

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
VirginiaCOUNTY:
Falls Church (in city)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cherry Hill is a nineteenth century farmstead consisting of a farm house and barn built c. 1840, with other farm out-buildings. It stands in a central municipal park of about six acres, adjacent to the City Hall and Municipal Community Center Building, directly across Park Avenue from the Public Library, in the center of the City of Falls Church, Virginia.

The house is a two story Greek Revival frame house. It is five bays wide, with a gable roof. The entrance is centered on the south facade, and has a transom and sidelights.

The later Victorian front porch across the front of the house has a plain box cornice and small brackets under the eaves. Attractive benches on either side of the front entrance appear to have been made for the porch.

The interior of the house is in vernacular Greek Revival style; the broad center hall is generous, running the length of the house. The open string stair is finely detailed, having a large turned Empire newel post and delicate balusters. The east room runs through the house from front to rear and has a late Greek Revival mantel. The mantel in the southwest room is earlier in design, having plain pilasters and a dentil course beneath the shelf.

There have been few alterations to the original fabric; the kitchen addition in the rear, demolished and rebuilt c.1900 and remodeled again in 1928, and the porch which was added c.1870 did not penetrate or disturb the original house, which retains the finish materials, details, and even the hardware with which it was built.

The barn and the shed also appear to be largely original fabric. The barn which contains a main level and a loft, covered with a gable roof, is a "heavy timber barn." The plates, posts, and beams are squared hewn logs. The siding is unpainted board and batten. Interior partitions, ladders, and hardware are original. The shed, which is adjacent to the barn is only enclosed on three sides. Both structures have been preserved from alteration and vandals, and have weathered to a romantic and stylish patina.

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	19th C. Townscape
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> itarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The land patent of which Cherry Hill is a part was granted to John Trammell in 1729. It was on a portion of Trammell's land that the original Falls Church was built in 1746. By the 1850s a right of way through the property had been sold to the Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad Company.</p> <p>The proximity to major transportation routes made the house important during the Civil War. The railroad became the U.S. Military Railroad. Cherry Hill lay just outside of the line of defenses of the City of Washington. There were a number of skirmishes on the property during the war, including the Battle of the Peach Orchard, which was fought in the orchard directly behind the house. Traditionally, Cherry Hill was used as a hiding place for Confederate soldiers.</p> <p>From 1870 until 1956 the farm was owned by the Riley family, cousins of the poet James Whitcomb Riley. The poet had close ties with Cherry Hill and was known to have visited there many times. Some of his poems included descriptions of Cherry Hill and its residents.</p> <p>Judge Joseph Riley was largely responsible for the incorporation of the town of Falls Church in 1875, and became an alderman. For some time court sessions were held at the house. Judge Riley was later the founder of the movement for a public school in the town and became the first chairman of the School Board.</p> <p>After the death of Judge Riley in 1919, the house was inherited by his son J. Harvey Riley, an eminent ornithologist connected with the Smithsonian. He was involved in a number of scientific expeditions and was asked to accompany President Theodore Roosevelt to Africa. Riley has twelve different entries in the Union Catalogue at the Library of Congress. Seven subspecies were named after him. Both Judge Riley and his son were enthusiastic naturalists and are responsible for a great deal of the extraordinary plant material which survives around the house.</p> <p>The contemporary significance of the buildings derives from their distinctive character as a gracious upper middle class residence, embodying the traditional values of the nineteenth century in northern Virginia. They are in active municipal and community use, and form an appropriate identity symbol for the modern residential city of Falls Church.</p>			

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexandria Gazette: May 18, 1833
William Lyon Phelps, Editor, Letters of James Whitcomb Riley
(Indianapolis:Bobbs Merrill Company, 1930), pp. 204-205.
Melvin Lee Steadman, Jr., Falls Church by Fence and Fireside,
(Falls Church: Falls Church Public Library, 1964), pp. 7,
13,14,65-66,75-76,81,138; illus.,plus geneologies of the
Mills Family, pp.370-372;Riley Family, pp.406-411; and
Trammell Family, pp.441-444
Charles A. Stewart, A Virginia Village: Historical Sketch of
Falls Church and the Old Colonial Church (Falls Church:Newell, 1904)
pp.30,56

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	38 ° 53' 08 "	77 ° 10 ' 24 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John M. Dickey, AIA		
ORGANIZATION Architect	DATE 4-27-73	
STREET AND NUMBER: 207 West Baker Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Media	STATE Pennsylvania 19063	CODE 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name _____

Title Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date 6/19/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

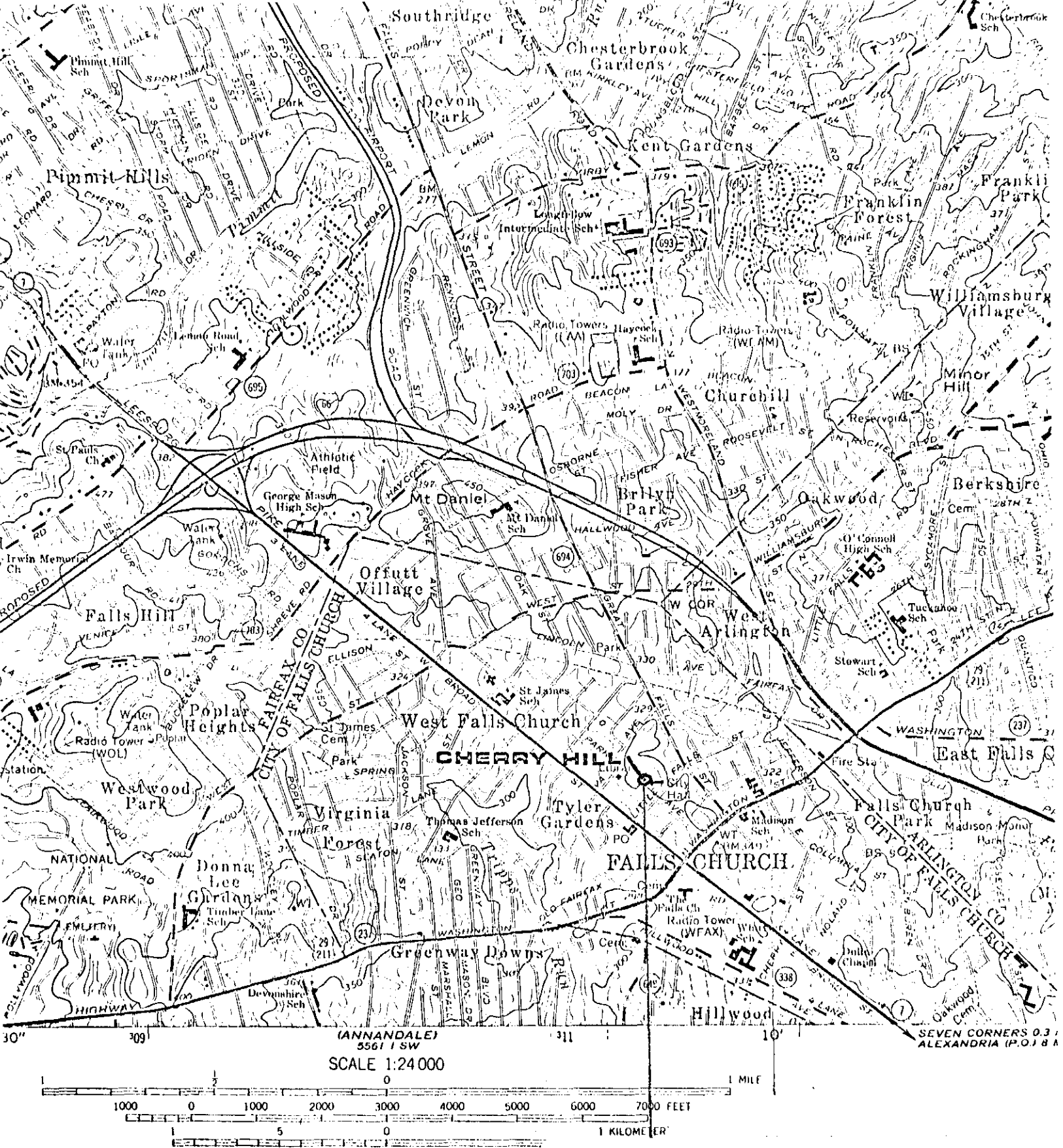
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/26/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Falls Church, Va.-Md. 1965

CHERRY HILL
latitude
38°53'08"

longitude
77°10'24"

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY S
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTE
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AV.